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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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REFERENCES

- 25X1 1. As of autumn 1953, the Estonian Rifle Corps, established by the Soviet Union during World War II, continued to exist, at least in name. A rifle regiment, quartered in the Tondi Barracks in Tallinn, belonged to the Corps, together with a unit quartered in the southern outskirts of the town. The Corps had a very high percentage of Soviets but Estonians were also found in all grades.
2. A rifle regiment, probably the 89th, was stationed at Tartu. Most of the unit was quartered in the barracks of the former Estonian Army's 4th Artillery Regiment on the Tähtvere estate. Another part of the unit, which included families of officers and non-commissioned officers, was quartered in the Kuperjanov Barracks near the railroad station. Air force troops, as well as some small army units, were stationed at the Lembitu Barracks in the northeast outskirts of Tartu. A civilian camp (sic) occupied the barracks of the former Estonian 3rd Artillery Regiment at Ropka (N 58-19, E 26-37). Air force troops were quartered in the barracks of the former Estonian 2nd Independent Infantry Battalion, about 100 meters from the Lembitu Barracks. An armored unit was located at Elva (N 58-20, E 26-38). In general, the unit appeared to have only light tanks, and armored reconnaissance cars which were equipped with wheels in front and a track system in the rear.
3. During autumn 1953, men born in 1934 were called up for their initial military service. However, as no general proclamation regarding call-ups had been publicized, it was not clear whether the main portion of the 1934 contingent was affected. The recruit contingents were mixed Estonians and Soviets; most of the Estonian recruits received their training with units in other sections of the USSR.
4. Service for students at gymnasiums and various types of trade schools was deferred until the completion of their studies. Universities and academies generally had their own military sections, where students completed their initial service.

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- 2 -

5. In past years, some of the older Estonians of conscript age, who had not been called up earlier to perform peacetime service in the Soviet Army, had been given some spare-time training in courses lasting about 200 hours. These courses consisted of basic rifle training. Students participated in individual, group, and platoon exercises arranged under the direction of DOSAAF. Conscripts who had only fulfilled the 200 hours part-time training were later called up for refresher training with military units. These exercises lasted for a month or more up to six months or more.

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